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Media disbelief rapped by outgoing CIA biggie

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—Adm. Bobby R. Inman, retiring deputy director of the CIA, said yesterday that it is difficult to convince the public of the peril of a Soviet military buildup because the press will not believe United States intelligence reports, even when they include spy satellite pictures.



"If one doesn't want to believe there is a Soviet buildup, then one can find other kinds of questions to divert attention," said Inman, who added that he had been particularly irked at press coverage of

an intelligence briefing last March on the Soviet and Cuban-backed military buildup in Nicaragua.

John Hughes of the Defense Intelligence Agency conducted the briefing, showing reporters photographs taken from spy satellites of Soviet-type military garrison arrangements, lengthened airport runways to accommodate Soviet-made Mig fighter-bombers, and deployed Soviet T-55 tanks.

Inman, who said he regards Hughes as the best photo interpreter around, said he was surprised to see the newspaper accounts of the briefing next day use a word like "alleged" in discussing the intelligence findings.

Inman, testifying before the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, said the public will not be convinced of an increase in Soviet strength "if there is no willingness (by reporters) to accept the honesty of the professional."